in Arsenic free aquifers has been started. Simultaneously, a realistic assessment of the magnitude and severity of arsenic problem is being made through extensive water quality monitoring and epidemiological surveys. Steps have been taken by the Government of West Bengal for installation of arsenic detection unit at the School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata.

Kidney trade

2260. SHRI ABANI ROY: will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that despite ban Kidney trade still flourish in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that large number of Kidneys are being destined for the patients of the Middle East countries;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether a large number of middlemen, medical professionals and private hospitals are involved in the racket; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to check such racket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) The Transplantation of Human Organs Act was enacted on 8th July, 1994 to provide for the regulation of removal, storage and transplantation of human organs for therapeutic purposes and for the prevention of commercial dealings in human organs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The said Act is applicable in the whole of the States of Goa, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh and all the Union Territories. It has been adopted/enacted by all the States except Bihar and newly created States, namely, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. Under Section 18 to 23 of the said Act, necessary provisions have been made to check such trade of human organs. Government have not received any information relating to large number of kidneys being destined for the patients of Middle East countries.